

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (previously presented) A copyright licensing process promoting apparatus for promoting a copyright licensing process for literary work data desired to be transmitted from a first terminal unit of a first user to a second terminal unit of a second user via a communication network, said apparatus comprising:

detecting means for accessing the first terminal unit of the first user by way of the communication network and for detecting at the first terminal unit a file of the literary work data to be transmitted from the first terminal unit to the communication network, said detecting means being operable to detect the file at the first terminal unit before the file is transmitted to the communication network;

content determining means for determining whether a content of the file to be transmitted to the communication network and detected by said detecting means is valid; and

file processing means for performing a predetermined process for the file before the file is transmitted to the communication network when a result of said content determining means is not valid,

said apparatus being connectable to the communication network at a location which is remote from the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit;

wherein the content determining means includes a feature extracting means for extracting a feature pattern from the file and compares the feature pattern with a plurality of stored feature patterns to determine the content of the file.

Claim 2. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

searching means for searching for a location on a predetermined list, referenced via the communication network, at which the file of the literary work data is stored,

wherein said detecting means detects the file to be transmitted, the file being stored at the location searched by said searching means.

Claim 3. (Cancelled)

Claim 4. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

literary work data determining means for determining whether the content of the file to be transmitted is literary work data; and

copyright licensing process determining means for determining whether a copyright licensing process has been performed for the literary work data,

wherein said content determining means determines that the content of the file is valid corresponding to a result of said literary work data determining means and a result of said copyright licensing process determining means, and said literary work data determining means represents that the content of the file is literary work data and said copyright licensing process determining means represents that the copyright licensing process has not been performed for the file.

Claims 5-6. (cancelled)

Claim 7. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

informing means for informing the first user of the first terminal unit that the content of the file is not valid when a result of said content determining means represents that the content of the file is not valid,

wherein said file processing means performs the predetermined process when the first terminal unit tries to transmit the file although said informing means has informed the first user that the content of the file is not valid.

Claim 8. (previously presented) A copyright licensing process promoting method usable by a copyright licensing process promoting apparatus for promoting a copyright licensing process for literary work data desired to be transmitted from a first terminal unit of a first user to a second terminal unit of a second user via a communication network, comprising the steps of:

accessing the first terminal unit of the first user by way of the communication network and detecting at the first terminal unit a file of literary work data to be transmitted from the first terminal unit to the communication network;

determining whether a content of the file to be transmitted to the communication network and detected at the step of detecting is valid; and

performing a predetermined process for the file before the file is transmitted when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid,

the step of detecting being operable to detect the file at the first terminal unit before the file is transmitted to the communication network, and

said apparatus being connectable to the communication network at a location which is remote from the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit;

wherein the determining step performs a feature extracting operation of extracting a feature pattern from the file and comparing the feature pattern with a plurality of stored feature patterns to determine the content of the file.

Claim 9. (previously presented) A copyright licensing process promoting program causing a computer device to perform a copyright licensing process promoting method for promoting a copyright licensing process for literary work data desired to be transmitted from a first terminal unit of a first user to a second terminal unit of a second user via a communication network, comprising the steps of:

accessing the first terminal unit of the first user by way of the communication network and detecting at the first terminal unit a file of literary work data to be transmitted from the first terminal unit to the communication network;

determining whether a content of the file to be transmitted to the communication network and detected at the step of detecting is valid; and

performing a predetermined process for the file before the file is transmitted when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid,

the step of detecting being operable to detect the file at the first terminal unit before the file is transmitted to the communication network, and

said computer device being connectable to the communication network at a location which is remote from the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit;

wherein the determining step performs a feature extracting operation of extracting a feature pattern from the file and comparing the feature pattern with a plurality of stored feature patterns to determine the content of the file.

Claims 10-12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (previously presented) A record medium on which a computer readable copyright licensing process promoting program is recorded, the program causing a computer device to perform a copyright licensing process promoting method for promoting a copyright licensing process for literary work data desired to be transmitted from a first terminal unit of a first user to a second terminal unit of a second user via a communication network, comprising the steps of:

accessing the first terminal unit of the first user by way of the communication network and detecting at the first terminal unit a file of literary work data to be transmitted from the first terminal unit to the communication network;

determining whether a content of the file to be transmitted to the communication network and detected at the step of detecting is valid; and

performing a predetermined process for the file before the file is transmitted when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid,

the step of detecting being operable to detect the file at the first terminal unit before the file is transmitted to the communication network, and

said computer device being connectable to the communication network at a location which is remote from the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit;

wherein the determining step performs a feature extracting operation of extracting a feature pattern from the file and comparing the feature pattern with a plurality of stored feature patterns to determine the content of the file.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the predetermined process for the file is a destruction of the file.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further comprising means for transmitting a warning message to the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit when a result of said

content determining means represents that the content of the file is not valid.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting method as set forth in claim 8, wherein the predetermined process for the file is a destruction of the file.

Claim 18. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting method as set forth in claim 8, further comprising the step of transmitting a warning message to the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid.

Claim 19. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting method as set forth in claim 9, wherein the predetermined process for the file is a destruction of the file.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The copyright licensing process promoting method as set forth in claim 9, further comprising the step of transmitting a warning message to the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The record medium as set forth in claim 13, wherein the predetermined process for the file is a destruction of the file.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The record medium as set forth in claim 13, wherein the program further comprises the step of transmitting a warning message to the first terminal unit and the second terminal unit when a result at the step of determining represents that the content of the file is not valid.

Claims 23-24. (canceled)